

## **SCHOOLS FUNDING SETTLEMENT AND LOCAL FUNDING FORMULA 2021/22**

### **Report of the Corporate Director for People**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To update the Cabinet on the key announcements made by the Department for Education (DfE) on the education funding settlement for 2021/22.
- 1.2 To approve the local funding formula models to be used to determine the individual 2021/22 budgets for early years providers and schools in Stockport

#### **2.0 Education Revenue Settlement 2021/22**

##### **2.1 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)**

The 2021/22 dedicated schools grant (DSG) will continue to be provided to the Local Authority (LA) in four notional blocks, with each individual block allocation determined by application of the national funding formula (NFF) models assigned to each block as previously determined by the Department for Education (DfE). The key headlines include:

- The early years national funding formula (EYNFF) as introduced in April 2017 will increase nationally by c. £70m which equates to a 6p per hour increase and provide a minimum funding level at £4.44 per hour from April 2021 for both the universal (15hours) and the extended 30hours offer (working parents only) and a 8p per hour increase for the 2 year old offer providing a minimum funding level at £5.46per hour;
- The Schools block will increase by £4.8bn nationally as part of the proposed three-year investment in schools totalling £13bn for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23 as per ministerial announcement in September 2019;
- Linked to the above £730m will be specifically targeted at high needs and allocated to LA's through the NFF model;
- The Schools' block NFF model formula factor values have been increased generally by 3% and will continue to allocate growth funding to local authorities on a formulaic basis;
- The specific grants for Teachers pay award and pensions currently allocated on a per pupil basis have been streamlined into the DSG from April 2021 for pupils in Reception to Year 11 @ £180per pupil primary and £265per pupil secondary (note: Teachers pay award and pensions grant funding for maintained nursery schools and primary schools with a nursery class will continue to receive a direct central grant for this element of funding from April 2021);
- Minimum funding levels (MFLs) inclusive of the additional monies for streamlined grants as above now within the NFF model increase from £3,750 to £4,180per pupil primary and from £5,000 to £5,415per pupil secondary (note: the MFL for secondary schools still growing is adjusted based on the year groups occupied (i.e. Laurus Cheadle Hulme £5,340));

- Schools' block ring-fenced with limited flexibility to transfer up to 0.5% of the block funding to another block subject to receiving Schools' Forum approval;
- 95% minimum pass-through rate of early year's funding to front line providers;
- Minimum funding guarantee (MFG) protection will continue to be applied to schools delegated budgets ensuring stability and protection, this can be set locally between 0.5-2% per pupil;
- The LA continues to remain responsible for determining and administering the local early years single funding formula (EYSFF) model for providing budget allocations to early years providers; and
- The LA will also remain responsible for determining and administering the local schools' funding formula model to provide individual budget allocation to schools 2021/22 as part of the continued "soft" transition phase of moving to a hard-national formula (currently implementation estimated for April 2023 at the earliest).

The 2021/22 Schools Funding arrangements provide Stockport an initial baseline DSG allocation at £258.709m (before any Academy/High Needs recoupment) as detailed in the table below:

<b>Narrative</b>	<b>Early Years £m</b>	<b>Schools £m</b>	<b>High Needs £m</b>	<b>CSSB £m</b>	<b>Total £m</b>
<b>2020/21 DSG Allocation</b>	<b>21.335</b>	<b>180.658</b>	<b>33.936</b>	<b>1.904</b>	<b>237.833</b>
NFF Model/Pupil Numbers	0.140	8.779	3.250	(0.045)	<b>12.123</b>
NFF Growth factor		(0.549)			<b>(0.549)</b>
Other adjustments (i.e. streamlined grants)		8.459	0.624	0.218	<b>9.301</b>
<b>2021/22 Baseline DSG</b>	<b>21.475</b>	<b>197.347</b>	<b>37.810</b>	<b>2.077</b>	<b>258.709</b>

\*The above figures will be subject to in-year adjustments (i.e. Academy recoupment and update of early years funding based on January 2021 & 2022 data).

## 2.2 Early Years National Funding Formula

The early years block funding within the DSG funding framework moved to a national funding formula basis for the purpose of distributing the national envelope of funding ear-marked for three and four years old children from April 2017.

The EYNFF comprises of a single national base rate plus three supplements (free school meals, English as an additional language and disability living allowance) with the combined total for each LA adjusted by the area cost adjustment (ACA).

The EYNFF model provides Stockport a minimum base funding level of £4.44 per hour and provides £18.279m of funding for the universal and extended 30hours offer (for working parents only) free entitlement within a total early year's block funding of £21.475m

The finance regulations aligned to the funding reforms introduced alongside the EYNFF model in April 2017 require all local authorities to provide funding to all EY settings via one single base rate.

The local Stockport EYSFF model will provide a base rate level of funding at £4.30 (i.e. 6p per hour increase fully pass-ported to settings) to all early year's settings from April 2021. In addition to the base rate from April 2021 the deprivation formula factor value will be re-instated to former level of £0.31per hour and maintained nursery school (MNS) schools base rate funding level will be enhanced to £6.72per hour financed via the nursery schools supplementary grant received from central government. The remaining £0.14 per hour of core funding is used to finance the above EYSFF model supplements and other central LA early years support service costs.

### 2.3 Pupil Premium Grant

The Pupil Premium is additional funding given to schools so that they can support their disadvantaged pupils and close the attainment gap between them and their fellow peers. In 2020/21, Stockport attracted £11.205m of funding (including academies).

From 2021/22 the Pupil Premium funding allocated to schools will be based on the October school census rather than the traditional January count, therefore 2021/22 allocations will be based on the October 2020 census data.

Alternative Provision and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) allocations will continue to be based on the January count

The 2021/22 per pupil funding rates will remain at the current 2020/21 rates as per the table below:

<b>Narrative</b>	<b>2021/22 £</b>
Primary	1,345
Secondary	955
Service Children (Armed Forces)	310
Looked after Children, Adopted Children and Children with Guardians	2,345

### 2.4 Universal Infant Free School Meals

The Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) initiative was launched by the DfE from September 2014 and provides all pupils in key stage one that did not qualify for a free school meal with a free meal.

Revenue funding will continue to be provided at a national flat rate of £2.34 per meal for the 2021/22 academic year. This provides direct funding for all children previously not entitled to free school meals as recorded on the school census data.

The 2019/20 academic year final allocation was £3.377m.

The indicative 2020/21 academic year indicative allocation provides Stockport a baseline grant funding position at c. £2.004m for the 7/12ths period September 2020 to March 2021.

A final allocation for academic year 2020/21 will be calculated in June 2021; based on the October 2020 and January 2021 school census data.

Further details relating to individual school allocations for the period commencing September 2021 will be provided to schools in due course.

## 2.5 School Improvement monitoring and brokering Grant

The School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant will continue in the 2021/22 financial year until at least August 2021 (i.e. end of the current 2020/21 academic year), The DfE issued the national £30m allocation for the period September 2020 to March 2021 in the autumn term.

This provided an allocation for Stockport at £0.216m

The DfE will confirm later in the year the overall national quantum level and individual LA allocations for the remaining 5/12ths April to August 2021 period. Stockport's allocation is estimated at c. £0.140m

National allocations currently provide £1,800 per LA maintained school with a minimum full year allocation of £50,000 per LA.

## 2.6 Free School Meals supplementary grant

Free School Meal (FSM) Supplementary Grant will be extended for one additional year to 2020 to 2021 for increases in FSM pupil numbers between October 2019 and October 2020, at a per pupil rate of £450. Allocations will be made in February 2021.

## 2.7 Other Grant Funding

The DfE has not yet confirmed any details in relation to the grants detailed below and any funding to continue in 2021/22, further detail is expected this term on individual school/LA allocations:

- Year 7 Catch Up Premium;
- Primary PE and Sports;
- Key Stage 2 moderation and Key stage 1 phonics; and
- Extended Rights re Home to School Transport.

## 3. Local Formula

### 3.1 Early Years:

The construction of the early years budget is largely governed by the statutory regulations and reforms as set by the DfE within the EYNFF implementation framework back in 2017. The updated 2021/22 local EYSFF model will include:

- A single base rate to all early year's providers within the local EYSFF model (to be increased by 6p per hour and set at £4.30);
- LA central spend is restricted to a capping level set nationally at 5% (i.e. 95% statutory pass through rate of funding to providers);
- Extension of supplementary funding provided to local authorities with maintained Nursery School provision to continue to protect their baseline level of funding (locally set at **£6.72per** hour); and

- Continuation of a central SEN inclusion fund to support three and four years old with SEN accessing the free entitlement.

3.2 In addition to the above, the 2021/22 Early Years Budget block will include:

- Two years old offer funding will be allocated to settings at £5.26per hour (increase of 8p from 2020/21 baseline), with the remaining £0.20 per hour retained towards central costs as per 2020/21; and
- LA allocate other specific funding (i.e. Early Year's Premium and Disability Access Fund) directly to providers in accordance with grant conditions.

3.3 School Budgets:

The current 2020/21 local funding formula model is constructed on the basis of budgetary decisions taken by the Cabinet in February 2018 following consultation with all school governing bodies in autumn 2017.

The summer 2020 Schools Funding announcement for 2021/22 confirmed the current NFF "soft" model arrangements would continue from April 2021 for a at least a further year (& possibly into 2022/23).

Following the above announcement, it was discussed and agreed with Schools' Forum that a further consultation should be undertaken with all school governing bodies on the "soft" NFF model options ahead of 2021/22 final proposals to be presented to the Cabinet in February 2021.

The consultation sought views and comments on the options available in relation to the construction of the local funding formula model (primary schools) from April 2021, including:

- Continuation of the local funding formula model against the national NFF model for primary schools (secondary schools already on the national NFF model);
- The distribution of any available "headroom" monies;
- The local rate to be applied for the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) protection; and
- Transfer of funding (up to 0.5%) from the schools' block

The schools' block quantum level of funding allocated to the LA will be determined by the aggregated total of the "indicative" budget calculated via the NFF model for each individual school.

The LA will remain responsible for determining and administering the local funding formula model to determine actual delegated budget share for each individual school under the "soft" formula option again in 2021/22 as part of the transition to a "hard" NFF model (currently estimated for April 2023)

The LA propose to continue to allocate delegated funding to schools as follows:

- a) Primary – retention of the current local funding formula; and
- b) Secondary – adoption of the NFF model values determined by the DfE.

3.4 The key controls that remain in 2021/22 linked to the reforms/implementation of the Local/NFF model, include:

- The formula model must contain a basic entitlement and deprivation funding factors as minimum;

- Deprivation funding can be based on both free school meal (FSM) data and/or FSM 6 data;
- Resourced Provision pupils in a mainstream school will be funded via the local schools funding formula model;
- National restriction on the data sets permitted for use to determine eligibility or distribution of funding within factors;
- Lump sum value must be defined for each sector; and
- Minimum 70% distributed by pupil-led funding factors.

3.5 In addition to the above and linked to either national reform updates or local options/flexibility the following will be applied:

- Application of the updated minimum funding levels (MFL) to £4,180per pupil primary and £5,415per pupil secondary for any school (adjusted level for new/growing schools) not afforded such by application of the formula model;
- Provide stability to any school with a fall in pupil population and/or a reduction in delegated funding via application of the minimum funding guarantee (MFG) to be set locally at 0.5% per pupil; and
- Retain the total costs of each sectors formula funding model within the quantum allocation provided by the DfE via application of the NFF model wherever possible.

#### **4. Programme of Work Leading to the Recommendations to the Cabinet**

- 4.1 The Schools' Forum continues to be the main conduit/partnership arrangement for all schools funding matters as part of the annual cycle of budget preparation, monitoring and ensuring the local system is reflective of the latest regulatory requirements linked to ministerial announcements.
- 4.2 The LA undertook a Schools Funding Consultation 2020 with all school governing bodies for two weeks after the October half-term following discussions with Schools' Forum members on the latest 2021/22 funding announcements and budgetary options available.
- 4.3 The LA has continued to provide regular updates to Schools' Forum on the latest news and developments as they emerged during this term. The key elements/messages shared and discussed with Schools' Forum members included:
- October 2020 – Ministerial announcements relating to Schools Funding 2021/22, NFF Models update (i.e. increased MFLs) high needs funding increase, budget principles and timeline;
  - December 2020 – DSG estimates, consultation outcomes/LA plans, budget options and indicative central service budget requirements; and
  - January 2021 – Final details of the Local Funding Formula models to be presented to Cabinet.
- 4.4 The meetings held with Schools' Forum members have discussed the latest reform updates, local funding arrangements and local flexibility permissible and members have expressed their views and/or approved (where applicable) the following aspects:

- The local model for primary schools should be retained for 2021/22 (& 2022/23 if permissible) until further detail and/or decision is made by central government on the implementation of a “hard” NFF model for schools;
- That any available “headroom” monies be deployed via the deprivation funding factors as a means of transition towards the “hard” NFF model;
- That the MFG level be set locally at 0.5% per pupil;
- Approved the transfer of 0.5% of schools block funding (£0.9444m) to the high needs and central school services blocks to support cost pressures/budget sustainability.

4.5 The total cost of the Schools local funding formula model and other associated school/LA costs (i.e. central infant class size initiative and 0.5% transfer to high needs block) will remain within the total envelope of funding provided at £197.347m as determined by the NFF model.

#### 4.6 Other Schools Forum Considerations

4.6.1 Schools’ Forum Primary and Secondary phase representatives have discussed with their sector colleagues and agreed which service areas are to de-delegated back to the LA in 2021/22 (i.e. continuation of current 2020/21 arrangements) for them to manage and deploy on behalf of all schools/pupils.

4.6.2 Schools’ Forum members have approved the retention of a central reserve within the schools’ block of £0.625m for 2021/22. This will be used to support schools with issues relating to compliance with infant class size legislation and/or additional basic need school places / bulge classes financed from the national formulaic growth factor monies within the schools’ block NFF model.

4.6.3 Schools’ Forum members have approved the budgetary resource levels to be retained by the LA for the central school services block (i.e. statutory function/service areas (i.e. School Admissions, Schools Forum, Copyright Licences, etc.) in 2021/22.

### 5. Director’s Consideration of the Proposals

5.1 The Director of Children’s Services and the Interim Director of Education following review of the current baseline expenditure position of the DSG, the ongoing increase in SEN demand, limited DSG reserves, transfer of schools’ block funding to repay the DSG deficit and assessment of the latest schools funding announcements and discussions with Schools’ Forum have considered the proposals in the following context:

- The EYNFF model continues provides a clear and defined local envelope of funding linked to national proxy indicators/needs as per the formula components for local deployment across the different service areas.
- The additional 6/8p per hour funding increase applied across two, three and four years old funding allocations is welcomed, but is still not at the desired level required to support all our providers of early years education. The increase will be fully pass-ported to EY settings via the local funding mechanisms

- The Local early year's funding model will continue to be fully compliant in 2021/22 with all of the statutory requirements linked to the reforms.
- The primary and secondary schools local funding formula models will continue to be constructed locally on the same arrangements as 2020/21 (i.e. primary local model, secondary NFF model) following the consultation with all school governing bodies undertaken last term whilst we await further details on the next steps to introduce a "hard" NFF model from central government.
- Continuation of the local funding formula model will ensure no significant financial turbulence will be experienced by Stockport schools in 2021/22, which is considered essential at this critical time that all schools are experiencing significant additional costs and operational changes relating to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- All schools are afforded the MFG control mechanism protection (where required) and this has been set locally at 0.5% per pupil (in accordance with regulatory requirements to set locally between 0.5% to 2% max) and thus in turn will continue to provide additional stability to that applied in previous years (MFG was 0% per pupil in 2020/21), to any school due to receive a reduced delegated budget level.
- The local funding formula model applied in both sectors will also comply with the updated MFLs set by the DfE to ensure all schools receive a minimum £4,180 per pupil (primary) and £5,415 per pupil (secondary) – adjusted £5,340 level for new/growing school). The new MFLs are inclusive of the former Teachers pay and pensions grant funding now streamlined into the DSG from April 2021.
- The high needs block continues to be the area of greatest costs pressure within the DSG funding framework and the LA is working closely with Schools' Forum members via the DSG Review Group to assess need, requirements, operational options to deliver a long-term sustainable budget position. This will be closely linked and aligned to the program of works for a new integrated Children's and Education strategy. The final proposals emanating from the DSG Review and the public consultation feedback in autumn 2020 will be presented to the Cabinet in June 2021.

5.2 Members of the Schools' Forum at their meeting of 21 January 2021 received final detail of the 2021/22 local schools funding formula models to be applied to determine individual schools delegated budget share allocations. The final funding formula model information has also been submitted to the DfE for their annual customary checks on application and adherence to statutory regulations.

5.3 The Director of Children's Services concludes that the proposals for the 2021/22 schools local funding formula are constructed on the same basis of the current 2020/21 local models, which was supported by the consultation feedback from school governing bodies and further acknowledged and agreed with Schools' Forum members at the meeting held on 10 December 2020.

The increased level of funding provided via the updated NFF model and the increased MFLs requirements have largely been pass-ported directly to schools and will ensure all schools receive a minimum per pupil funding at £4,180 per pupil



primary and £5,415 per pupil secondary. Any school subject to a reduced level of funding (i.e. fall in pupil numbers, school profile changes, etc.) will continue to be protected via application of the MFG at the rate of 0.5% per pupil.

The high needs block continues to be a significant cost pressure area, with a Q3 forecast of a net deficit outturn for 2020/21 at £1.871m; which will be carried forward and provides a cumulative forecast position of £3.1m deficit as at 31 March 2021.

The Schools' Forum members approved a 0.5% transfer of funding (£0.944m) from the schools' block in 2021/22 and the LA has ear-marked £0.589m from the 2021/22 baseline high needs draft budget to repay the deficit. The high needs budget remains in a volatile financial position as a result of the continued increase in levels of demand/support required. The outcomes of the DSG Review, the integrated Childrens and Education strategy and the SEND written statement of action will be pivotal drivers under-pinning the construction of the high needs budget and resource requirements in future years.

## **6. Cabinet Considerations**

6.1 In setting the local formula for early years and schools for 2021/22, the Cabinet should be mindful of:

- (i) Local funding/budget arrangements for 2021/22 are largely a continuation of the 2020/21 baseline position which has been consulted upon with all school governing bodies.
- (ii) The requirement to ensure all activity/service budget costs relating to each of the four blocks are sustainable within the overall envelope of funding now provided via the introduction of the new NFF models.
- (iii) The LA is compliant with the statutory 95% pass through funding rate to providers in the early years' block.
- (iv) The statutory requirement to implement the MFLs set and updated by the DfE for 2021/22 will ensure that all schools receive an increased minimum level of funding at £4,180 per pupil primary and £5,415 per pupil secondary from April 2021 where this is not directly allocated via application of the local/NFF model.
- (v) The budget plan continues to provide stability and protection where required to school budgets via the MFG set locally at 0.5% per pupil.
- (vi) The views of Schools' Forum members.

6.2 Accepting the recommendation would mean the local formula for early years and schools will be constructed based on the following parameters:

### **Early Years:**

Local Funding formula for the educational free entitlement offer to three and four years old:

Narrative	Nursery Schools	Nursery Classes / PVI
<b>Universal and Extended 3 &amp; 4 years old funding</b>		
Base Rate Funding	£4.30 per hour	£4.30 per hour
Supplementary Funding	£2.42 per hour	n/a
Deprivation Supplement	£176.70 per pupil	£176.70 per pupil
Lump Sum	£34,000	n/a
2 Years old offer	£5.26	£5.26

Schools:

<b>Narrative: Primary Model</b>	<b>Funding Value £</b>	<b>2020/21 Funding £m</b>	<b>Funding Value £</b>	<b>2021/22 Funding £m</b>
Basic Entitlement	3,023	74.901	3,294	81.116
Deprivation – FSM6	1,039	4.789	1,067	4.762
Deprivation – IDACI 1	112	0.230	115	0.263
Deprivation – IDACI 2	112	0.300	116	0.249
Deprivation – IDACI 3	166	0.170	181	0.168
Deprivation – IDACI 4	222	0.060	244	0.209
Deprivation – IDACI 5	229	0.301	250	0.298
Deprivation – IDACI 6	341	0.396	352	0.475
English as an additional language	647	0.979	665	0.962
SEN – low prior attainment	430	3.282	443	3.206
Lump Sum	132,990	11.304	132,990	11.304
Split sites	4,970	0.010	4,970	0.010
Rates	Variable per school	1.793	Variable per school	1.669
Other Adj		0		0
<b>Total Local Formula</b>		<b>98.514</b>		<b>104.692</b>
MFL / MFG		1.769		3.605
<b>Total Funding</b>		<b>100.283</b>		<b>108.297</b>
<b>Pupil Numbers</b>		<b>24,779</b>		<b>24,625</b>

Implementation of the above provides for the outcomes as summarised below:

<b>Narrative</b>	<b>2020/21 Base</b>	<b>2021/22 Proposal</b>
Min pp funding	<b>3,758</b>	<b>4,188</b>
Max pp funding	<b>5,046</b>	<b>5,524</b>
Range	<b>1,288</b>	<b>1,337</b>
Ave pp funding	<b>4,103</b>	<b>4,443</b>
MFG Schools	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

The above per pupil figures are pre de-delegation decisions for specific central services and do not include Bridge Hall PS as a significant outlier at £6,097/6,416 per pupil.

<b>Narrative: Secondary Model</b>	<b>Funding Value £</b>	<b>2020/21 Funding £m</b>	<b>Funding Value £</b>	<b>2021/22 Funding £m</b>
Basic Entitlement – KS3	4,040	38.144	4,426	42.780
Basic Entitlement – KS4	4,586	25.663	4,989	28.632
Deprivation – FSM	452	0.991	462	1.217
Deprivation – FSM 6	819	3.003	844	3.102
Deprivation – IDACI 1	302	0.360	312	0.448
Deprivation – IDACI 2	407	0.664	417	0.564
Deprivation – IDACI 3	538	0.320	583	0.346
Deprivation – IDACI 4	583	0.163	633	0.400
Deprivation – IDACI 5	628	0.544	683	0.545
Deprivation – IDACI 6	845	0.564	870	0.703
English as an additional language	1,448	0.261	1,493	0.260
SEN – low prior attainment	1,619	4.901	1,669	5.402
Lump Sum	114,400	1.602	117,800	1.649
Split sites	18,269	0.018	18,269	0.018
Rates	Variable per school	1.014	Variable per school	0.803
<b>Total Local Formula</b>		<b>78.214</b>		<b>86.868</b>
MFL / MFG		0.808		0.614
<b>Total Funding</b>		<b>79.022</b>		<b>87.482</b>
<b>Pupil Numbers</b>		<b>15,037</b>		<b>15,404</b>

Implementation of the above provides for the outcomes as summarised below:

<b>Narrative</b>	<b>2020/21 Base</b>	<b>2021/22 Proposal</b>
Min pp funding	<b>4,872</b>	<b>5,375</b>
Max pp funding	<b>5,790</b>	<b>6,176</b>
Range	<b>918</b>	<b>801</b>
Ave pp funding	<b>5,275</b>	<b>5,708</b>
MFG Schools	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

The above per pupil figures are pre de-delegation decisions for specific central services.

## **7. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

### **7.1 Revenue and Capital consequences of report recommendations**

- 7.1.1 There are no revenue or capital consequences for the Council from the report recommendations as the matters within the report relate specifically to the ring-fenced dedicated schools grant (DSG) provided from central government for such education funding matters.

## 7.2 The effect of the decision

7.2.1 The direct effect of the decision is the delegated budget allocations for individual schools, academies and early years providers.

## 7.3 Risks

7.3.1 There are no direct risks associated with this decision.

## 7.4 Options

7.4.1 The alternative option (i.e. use NFF model) relating to the primary local funding formula model has been assessed as part of the consultation process and discussed with Schools' Forum members and has been discounted on the basis of not wishing to have financial turbulence in the schools system given the current Covid-19 position faced nationally.

## 7.5 Future savings/ efficiencies

7.5.1 N/A

# **8 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

8.1.1 The report and the proposals are governed by the Schools Finance Regulations and are in accordance with the annual schools' budget setting process provided within such re the deployment of the dedicated schools grant.

# **9 HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

9.1 There are no Human Resources considerations for this report

# **10 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

10.1 Equalities impact assessment completed as part of the formal schools' financial consultation process.

# **11 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

11.1 N/A

# **12 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

12.1.1 The general increase (3%) to the NFF model formula factors combined with the new MFLs set by the DfE; within the DSG settlement, is the second element of the announced £13bn settlement over three years from 2020/21 to 2022/23 and is a significant national investment. Although schools are dealing with ongoing cost pressures (i.e. pay award, inflation, incremental drift, etc.) and the significant impact of Covid-19, the above funding position coupled with the MFG for some schools, will ensure all schools have budget stability within a reasonable range.

12.1.2 Those schools with significant numbers of pupils from deprived areas will continue to attract the Pupil Premium grant.

- 12.1.3 The proposed amendments to the local funding formula for early years and schools are supported by Schools' Forum members and in line with the budget principles agreed for each block in the DSG funding framework.
- 12.1.4 The high needs budget continues to be the area of greatest cost pressure and concern and has been subject to a significant program of review and works via the DSG Review Group with public consultation undertaken on the initial key recommendations in autumn 2020. The final proposals are to be presented to the Cabinet in June 2021.
- 12.1.5 The Cabinet notes the details of the Education Funding Settlement for 2021/22; and  
The Cabinet approves the construction of the early year's budget as defined at section 3.1 to 3.2 and the updated local schools funding formula model as outlined in section 3.3 to 3.5 and summarised in the tables provided at section 6.2

### BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Peter Hughes on Tel: 0161 474 3947 or by email on [peter.hughes@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:peter.hughes@stockport.gov.uk)